

Eci Rule 400.1908 "URGENT"

March 15<sup>th</sup> 2005

Joannies Jingle-Jangle Childcare  
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State Representative Mr. John Stahl,

My name is Joan T. Hamilton and I am a constituent of State Representative Mr. LaMar Lemmons III. I am the owner operator of Joannies Jingle-Jangle Accredited Childcare. Currently I have been a quality childcare provider for eight consecutive years.

We are now living in a time Sir where many households are headed by single working moms raising two or three children. These moms feel blessed to have a job. They are not complaining about earning just a tad-bit above minimum wage. These moms are not even complaining that they have to use public transportation to go to these jobs that are two hours from where they reside. These moms are not even complaining that they have to out of dier necessity work the evening shift to afford their children food, clothing and shelter.

These moms are complaining and devastated because they can't bring their child to childcare at 2:00 pm in order to catch a bus to get to work by 3:00 pm.

I see the needs of parents who want and have found quality childcare at Jingle-Jangle childcare. Parents know and respect the fact that while their child in in my care they will be fed, nurtured, loved and learned. These parents Sir opt not to send their child to a big childcare center. They prefer to have their child in a home setting childcare facility.

Because I see the needs of the children that need quality childcare in the morning as well as the children that need quality childcare in the evenings. I run my childcare two consecutive shifts. The problem is Sir, at the change

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of shifts between the hours of 2:00 and 6:00 there is an overlapp of children. During those hours I have three staff members as well as ample square footage to accommodate approximately sixteen children at a time.

All I am asking Sir. Is that you please look into your heart of heart for the sake of the children and allow for an exception to enable Jingle-Jangle Childcare to accommodate children during the change of shift please.

My belief is that this is America, citizens should have the right to make choices as well as inevitable right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

I would like to make an appointment with you to come and further plead my case on the behalf of the children. Please inform me ASAP when that will be possible.

May God Bless You.

Joan T. Hamilton

**To the Members of the House of Representatives;**

People, who work in childcare, do so for many reasons. Money is not one of them, nor will it ever be- the reason is there is little money in childcare.

We work in childcare centers for the wonderful experiences we have. The teaching of young children and watching them grow and excel is one of the most joyful experiences a child care provider receives. We provide safe, secure, nurturing and loving spaces for the children to experience and explore their world with no worries or concerns.

We want to enhance and improve our centers for the children. We understand that rules and regulations protect the child as well as the center.

However, as wonderful and safe place as many centers are parents still place a value on cost. They are not willing to pay or cannot pay top dollar for childcare.

The new regulations and requirements will raise operating costs. They also limit classroom sizes thus limiting the amount of tuition childcare centers will take in.

The Governor and the FIA seem to think the parents will manage to pay the increasing fees of childcare centers.

They are wrong! Michigan has a 20% unemployment rate. The new regulations will make that rate rise not fall. These regulations will put many centers out of business. Where is the positive reinforcement for children in that?

I fear if these new regulations pass and centers close, parents will be forced to make unsafe choices. Choices that are based on cost not on quality of care. Child endangerment will grow and so will child mortality.

Are you willing to risk that?

Is the thought of money lining the Governors' and the FIAs' pocket more important to you than the lives and well being of the children in this State?

Please choose carefully- everyone's future is at stake here.

Thank you  
Kristi Maynard  
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